

Question for written answer E-003523/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Extension of deadline for payment of definitive basic entitlements and right of objection to the final allocation thereof

EU funding is extremely important for efforts to restructure the agricultural sector in Greece, which is making a significant contribution to achieving the 3 % of GDP target and employs 12% of the active population.

However, the determination of the 2015-2020 definitive basic payment entitlements by the EU funding payment and inspection agency (OPEKEPE) has been causing major difficulties.

OPEKEPE did not open the single application procedure for 2016 until 26 April, having first completed examination of applications for review of provisional entitlements and the correction of errors in the single application procedure for 2015.

According to agricultural association representatives, major difficulties have arisen, mainly as a result of procedural errors affecting the final allocation of basic payment entitlements and mistakes on Form 6, which thousands of new applicants were required to complete, making it difficult for them to obtain their entitlements on time.

In view this, what action is the Commission empowered to take to extend officially the 16 May 2016 deadline for the payment of entitlements to farmers and grant them the right of objection to the final allocation thereof?